

NOTE ON THE SUBGENUS *SALINATOR* OF HEDLEY.

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In the last Part of the Proceedings of this Society (Vol. xxv., p. 511) Mr. Hedley has suggested a new subgeneric name (*Salinator*) for the Australian shell commonly known as *Amphibola fragilis*, to take the place of *Ampullarina* of authors which he shows to have a different signification from the *Ampullarina* of Sowerby.

In his remarks he merely casually refers to the genus *Ampullacera* of Quoy and Gaimard, described in 1832*, which included both the genus *Amphibola* as restricted by Mr. Hedley, and the subgenus *Ampullarina*, auct. (= *Salinator*).

The question first of all arises whether there are sufficient grounds for subgeneric separation, and secondly, if this be granted, whether the name *Ampullacera* should not have been used.

It is a recognised custom, where an author has included various forms under one generic title, for his successors to limit the genus, retaining the original name, and to apply fresh terms to the forms considered distinct.

As Messrs. Quoy and Gaimard did not indicate either species in particular as the type of their genus, it is open to any succeeding writer to apply the name *Ampullacera* either to *A. avellana* or to *A. fragilis*, supposing he considers them generically or subgenerically different.

Now, as the species *avellana* was previously, in 1817, appropriated by Schumacher as the type of his *Amphibola*, it could not be retained for *Ampullacera*, and, therefore, it seems to me that Mr. Hedley would have acted more wisely if he had used

* Voy. Astrolabe, Zool. Moll. Vol. ii., p. 196.

the latter term for the *fragilis* group of species, instead of further burdening science with a new name.

Conchologically the two forms are, in my opinion, inseparable subgenerically, and M. Bouvier*, who has studied the anatomy of both, although pointing out differences in the genitalia, does not appear to have considered them sufficient for generic or sub-generic distinction.

In conclusion it may be of interest to point out that the proper name to apply to the New Zealand species is *Amphibola crenata*, as the following synonymy will shew :—

1784—*Limax crenata*, Martyn, Univ. Conch. Vol. ii., pl. 69.

1789—*Bulimus avellana*, Bruguière, Ency. Méthod. † Vers. Vol. i. p. 297.

1790—*Helix avellana*, Gmelin, Syst. Nat.* p. 3640.

* Bull, Soc. Philom. Paris, ser.8, Vol. pp. 146-153.

† The correct dates of those works have been kindly supplied to me by Mr. C. Davies Sherborn.